

I. AMENDMENTS

Please amend claims 1, 9, 18, 26 and 34 to read as follows:

1. (Four times amended) A method of treating a malignant cell proliferative disorder associated with decreased transcription of a 5'ALT polynucleotide comprising exon 2 of a p15 gene, the method comprising administering locally at a site of cells having or suspected of having the disorder a polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO:1 operatively linked to a polynucleotide comprising exon 2 of the p15 gene, the polynucleotide further operatively linked to an expression regulatory element, whereby expression of said polynucleotide restores transcription of the 5'ALT polynucleotide, thereby treating the malignant cell proliferative disorder.

9. (Four times amended) A method of treating a subject having a malignant cell proliferative disorder associated with decreased p16 expression due to methylation of a CpG island of a p16 gene in a cell, the method comprising administering locally at a site of malignant cells exhibiting decreased p16 expression in a subject with the disorder, a therapeutically effective amount of a polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO:1 operatively linked to exons 2 and 3 of the p16 gene, the polynucleotide further operatively linked to an expression regulatory element, whereby expression of the polynucleotide in the malignant cells in the subject is restored, thereby treating the subject.

18. (Twice amended) A method of suppressing proliferation of malignant cells characterized by decreased expression of a polynucleotide encoding a 5'ALT-p16^{INK4A} polypeptide, wherein said 5'ALT-p16^{INK4A} polypeptide has tumor suppressor activity, the method comprising administering locally at a site of the malignant cells a polynucleotide encoding a 5'ALT-p16^{INK4A} polypeptide, said polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO:1 operatively linked to exons 2 and 3 of a p16 gene, the polynucleotide further operatively linked to an expression regulatory element, wherein expression of the 5'ALT-p16^{INK4A} polypeptide suppresses proliferation of the malignant cells.

26. (Twice amended) A method of suppressing proliferation of malignant cells characterized by expression of a mutant 5'ALT-p16^{INK4A} polypeptide, wherein the mutant 5'ALT-p16^{INK4A} polypeptide has decreased tumor suppressor activity, the method comprising administering locally at a site of the malignant cells a polynucleotide encoding a 5'ALT-p16^{INK4A} polypeptide, said polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO:1 operatively linked to exons 2 and 3 of a p16 gene, the polynucleotide further operatively linked to an expression regulatory element, wherein expression of the 5'ALT-p16^{INK4A} polypeptide suppresses proliferation of the malignant cells.

34. (Amended) A method of treating a malignant cell proliferative disorder associated with decreased transcription of a 5'ALT polynucleotide comprising exons 2 and 3 of a p16 gene, the method comprising administering locally at a site of cells having or suspected of having the disorder a polynucleotide comprising SEQ ID NO:1 operatively linked to a polynucleotide comprising exons 2 and 3 of the p16 gene, the polynucleotide further operatively linked to an expression regulatory element, whereby expression of said polynucleotide restores transcription of the 5'ALT polynucleotide, thereby treating the malignant cell proliferative disorder.